

OM 042-2002 (5360) HOLY DAYS CALLING FOR WORK PROSCRIPTION AND
PUBLIC FAST DAYS FOR INMATES, RECOGNITION OF



Operations Memorandum

NUMBER: 042-2002 (5360)
DATE: 12/13/2002
SUBJECT: Holy Days Calling for
Work Proscription and
Public Fast Days for
Inmates, Recognition of

EXPIRATION DATE: 12/13/2003

1. **PURPOSE AND SCOPE.** To establish a list of appropriate days of work proscription for inmate members of religious groups within the Bureau. At the December 1990 Executive Staff meeting, approval was given for the development of a uniform list of recognized holy days on which inmates may be excused from work or school for religious reasons.

The days listed below are commonly observed legitimate holy days in their respective religions, but this is not an exhaustive list. The Warden may authorize other local requests after verifying the religious nature of the observance.

This list of commonly observed public fast days by inmate members of religious groups within the Bureau will assist in:

- ! planning for the fasts and
- ! coordinating with Food Service for meals for participants at the conclusion of the fasts.

A three year overview is included in this Operations Memorandum to encourage long range planning.

2. **DIRECTIVES AFFECTED**

a. **Directive Rescinded**

OM 045-01 (5360) Holy Days Calling for Work Proscription
and Public Fast Days for Inmates,
Recognition of (12/13/01)

b. Directive Referenced

PS 5360.08 Religious Beliefs and Practices of Committed Offenders (5/25/01)

3. **EXCUSING INMATES FROM WORK AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.** The Central Office Chaplaincy Services Branch, Correctional Programs Division (CPD), maintains a general list of recognized holy days to identify days on which inmates of various faith groups may seek to be excused from work and school attendance. Due to the changing nature of religious observances, the list published in this Operations Memorandum is not exhaustive.

Requests for days off work and school by members of religions not included in this OM are to be given due consideration and authorized by the Warden when appropriate.

Days free from work or school attendance are determined by the religious community standard and ordinances of faith groups. As such, the number of days free from work for religious holy day observances is not limited to one per year. Absent religious community information, the Bureau does not have the authority to determine whether inmates should be free from work/school for religious reasons on particular days.

Inmates who personally request to observe holy days should be authorized to do so. Group requests for work proscription are not acceptable.

When an inmate submits a written request to staff and staff verify the request's legitimacy, the inmate should not be required to work or attend school. Unless the holy day falls on a federal holiday, the Warden may require inmates who are authorized to miss work on a holy day to make up for the missed work time or take "vacation" days if feasible.

4. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.** The following considerations must be taken into account when planning for proper observances of religious holy days.

- a. **Christianity.** While Good Friday is not a mandatory day of work proscription according to any one Christian tradition, it is considered most sacred, especially by Hispanic Christians.

At a minimum, requesting inmates should be allowed to attend services in the Chapel on Good Friday afternoon, as would be the normal practice in the community.

- b. **Hinduism.** Actual dates may vary due to the slight variations in calculating the Hindu calendar.
- c. **Judaism.** All Jewish holy days begin at sundown of the previous day and end approximately one hour after sundown on the holy day.
- d. **Native American.** A number of ceremonies and observances occur at the change of the seasons (spring and fall equinoxes, and summer and winter solstices). These observances vary from tribe to tribe and nation to nation. Local tribal consultation is the best reference for each institution.
- e. **Worldwide Church of God.** The Worldwide Church of God has undergone a major shift in its theology and no longer observes their traditional holy days. Their holy day observances are listed under Christianity. This will be the final year of listing these holy days separately. Observance begins at sundown of the previous day and ends at sundown on the holy day.

5. RELIGIOUS HOLY DAYS

	2003	2004	2005
a. Buddhism			
--New Year's Day	1 Jan	1 Jan	1 Jan
--Buddha Day	8 Apr	4 May	24 Apr
--Bodhi Day	8 Dec	8 Dec	8 Dec
b. Christianity			
--Good Friday	18 Apr	9 Apr	25 Mar
--Easter	20 Apr	11 Apr	27 Mar
--Christmas	25 Dec	25 Dec	25 Dec

Roman Catholic Christians also observe these additional holy days:

--Octave of Christmas, (Mary Mother of God)	1 Jan	1 Jan	1 Jan
--Ascension Thursday	29 May	20 May	5 May
--Assumption of Mary	15 Aug	15 Aug	15 Aug
--All Saints' Day	1 Nov	1 Nov	1 Nov
--Immaculate Conception	8 Dec	8 Dec	8 Dec

	2003	2004	2005
c. Hinduism			
--Dashera	5 Oct	22 Oct	tba
--Diwali	25 Oct	11 Nov	tba
d. Islam			
--Eid-ul-Adha	12 Feb	1 Feb	21 Jan
--Eid-ul-Fitr	25 Nov	14 Nov	4 Nov
e. Judaism			
--Passover, 1st day	17 Apr	6 Apr	24 Apr
--Passover, 2nd day	18 Apr	7 Apr	25 Apr
--Passover, 7th day	23 Apr	12 Apr	30 Apr
--Passover, 8th day	24 Apr	13 Apr	1 May
--Shavuot, 1st day	6 Jun	26 May	13 Jun
--Shavuot, 2nd day	7 Jun	27 May	14 Jun
--Rosh Hashanah, 1st day	27 Sep	16 Sep	4 Oct
--Rosh Hashanah, 2nd day	28 Sep	17 Sep	5 Oct
--Yom Kippur	6 Oct	25 Sep	13 Oct
--Sukkot, 1st day	11 Oct	30 Sep	18 Oct
--Sukkot, 2nd day	12 Oct	1 Oct	19 Oct
--Sukkot, 8th day	18 Oct	7 Oct	25 Oct
(Shemini Atzeret)			
--Sukkot, 9th day	19 Oct	8 Oct	26 Oct
(Simchat Torah)			
f. Moorish Science Temple of America			
--Noble Drew Ali's Birthday	8 Jan	8 Jan	8 Jan
--Moorish New Year	15 Jan	15 Jan	15 Jan
g. Nation of Islam			
--Savior's Day	26 Feb	26 Feb	26 Feb
--Savior's Day	7 Oct	7 Oct	7 Oct
--Holy Day of Atonement	16 Oct	16 Oct	16 Oct
h. Native American Religion			
--American Indian Days	24-25 Sep	24-25 Sep	24-25 Sep

	2003	2004	2005
i. Rastafarianism			
--Birthday of Haile Selassie	23 Jul	23 Jul	23 Jul
--Rastafarian New Year	11 Sep	11 Sep	11 Sep
--Crowning of Haile Selassie	2 Nov	2 Nov	2 Nov
j. Sikhism			
--Baisakhi (New Year)	13 Apr	13 Apr	13 Apr
--Founder's Birthday (Guru Nanak)	9 Nov	26 Nov	tba
k. Worldwide Church of God			
--Passover	16 Apr		
--Unleavened Bread(First)	17 Apr		
--Unleavened Bread(Last)	23 Apr		
--Pentecost	8 Jun		
--Feast of Trumpets	27 Sep		
--Day of Atonement	6 Oct		
--Feast of Tabernacles	11 Oct		
--Last Great Day	18 Oct		

6. **PUBLIC FAST DAYS.** There are generally two different types of fasts, a public and a private or personal fast. When inmates observe a public fast, i.e. one which is regulated by law or custom for all the faith adherents, Food Service will provide a meal nutritionally equivalent to the meal(s) missed. Public fasts usually begin and end at specific times. Accommodations may also be made for bagged meals at times when Food Service is normally closed.

When an inmate fasts for personal, religious reasons, no special accommodations need to be made for the meal(s) missed. Requests for meals after a personal fast should be determined on a case-by-case basis, applying sound correctional and pastoral judgment.

- a. **Islam.** Ramadhan is observed by the members of **Islam** and the **Nation of Islam**. Actual Western hemisphere moon sightings may occur a day later, but never earlier, than these dates reflect. The fast will last 29 or 30 days, but not longer than 30 days.

	2003	2004	2005
--Ramadhan begins	27 Oct	16 Oct	5 Oct
b. Judaism			
--Fast of Tevet		4 Jan	25 Jan
--Fast of Esther	17 Mar	4 Mar	24 Mar
--Fast of Tammuz	17 Jul	6 Jul	25 Jul
--Tish B'Av	7 Aug	27 Jul	14 Aug
--Fast of Gedeliah	29 Sep	19 Sep	6 Oct
--Yom Kippur	6 Oct	25 Sep	13 Oct
c. Nation of Islam			
--Holy Day of Atonement	16 Oct	16 Oct	16 Oct
d. Roman Catholicism			
--Ash Wednesday	5 Mar	25 Feb	9 Feb
--Good Friday	18 Apr	9 Apr	25 Mar

/s/

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